

printing long lists of synonyms, dates, and references to prior publication.

Some time we shall all do better in this kind of work, but there is an immense amount of work to be done before the ground can be cleared for more valuable investigation. When much of the work now going on is put together as a whole, I think it will appear more valuable than it does at present.

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THE AUTHORSHIP OF CERTAIN NAMES.

To the Editors of the Botanical Gazette:—Contribution U. S. Nat. Herb. 3: no. 9, just to hand, suggests a query as to the authorship of two new names proposed therein. On page 572 we have "*Salix barrattiana tweedyi* Bebb, var. nov.;" but it is explained by Mr. Rose in a footnote that the late Mr. Bebb gave the variety another name, which was preoccupied, and that he (Mr. Rose) substituted *tweedyi*. It appears to me that we cannot possibly cite as Bebb's a name he never wrote, or even thought of, and the status of the matter is the same as if Bebb had published his description with the preoccupied name, and Rose had offered a substitute in a later publication. Consequently it must be *S. barrattiana tweedyi* Rose.

A more difficult question arises in regard to "*Crepis barbiger*a Leiberg, sp. nov.," page 565. From the appearance of the description, and the absence of quotation marks or any statement to the contrary, we are led to suppose that it was written wholly by Mr. Coville. Now if Mr. Leiberg merely ticketed specimens of a new *Crepis* with the name *barbiger*a, this name would be nothing but a *nomen nudum*, and the author of the species would be he who first gave or cited a description in connection with the name. Nevertheless, we may, I think, still regard *Crepis barbiger*a as Leiberg's species, even allowing the description to be Coville's, by assuming that the latter prepared a diagnosis, to which the former gave a name. The status of the matter then is the same as if Coville had published a nameless description, and Leiberg had in a later paper proposed a name.

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